



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 2009 (Revised)

## **MAYOR JERRY SANDERS FACT SHEET**

### **MANDATORY WATER USE RESTRICTIONS ARRIVE**

#### *Mayor Encourages Council to Support Level 2 Drought Alert Condition and Mandatory Water Use Requirements*

San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders is encouraging the City Council to adopt mandatory water use restrictions to become effective June 1. The mayor is asking the Council to adopt the mandatory requirements as part of moving the City to a Level 2 Drought Alert Condition as described in the City's Emergency Water Regulations. The City Council is set to consider this action at its meeting on Tuesday, May 5.

The Mayor is asking the City Council to move to the Level 2 condition in response to cuts in water supplies available to San Diego. The cuts were made by the City's water wholesalers, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and the San Diego County Water Authority (CWA) and will take effect on July 1. The City must cut its demand for water to meet the new supply levels or face substantial penalty rates from MWD and CWA.

"Level 2 means that the voluntary conservation measures we've been recommending will become requirements for every business, homeowner, government agency and City department alike. With Council's support, we are going to make the changes we need to preserve and protect the water supplies that are critical to our economy and our overall quality of life."

*Mayor Jerry Sanders*

## **RESTRICTIONS ON WATER USE WILL AFFECT ALL CITY CUSTOMERS**

The mandatory water use restrictions included with the Level 2 Drought Alert Condition will affect all City Water Department customers. Under Level 2, all voluntary conservation practices currently recommended by the City become mandatory. In addition to a host of specific requirements spelled out in the Emergency Water Regulations, Water Department customers will be required to:

- Water lawns and landscape only between 6 p.m. and 10 a.m.
- Water only three times a week from June through October.
- Know their watering days:
  - Homes with odd-numbered addresses can water: Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday
  - Homes with even-numbered addresses can water: Saturday, Monday & Wednesday
  - Apartments, Condos and Businesses can water: Monday, Wednesday & Friday
  - Standard lawn sprinklers can water: Only 10 minutes.
- When taking their car to a car wash, use only those that recycle their water.
- Wash their cars at home between 6 p.m. & 10 a.m. only, and use a bucket and a hose with a shut-off nozzle.

## **CITY WILL OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR HARDSHIP VARIANCE REQUESTS**

The City's Emergency Water Regulations allow customers to request a hardship variance from the restrictions included in the Level 2 Drought Watch Condition. If, due to particular circumstances, a specific requirement of the regulations results in undue hardship, a customer can request an exemption from that requirement. Customers are required to file an application for variance with the Water Department and will be required to provide supporting documentation for the request and a filing fee.

## **ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLAINT PROCESS BUILT IN TO NEW REQUIREMENTS**

The water waste enforcement and complaint resolution process included as part of the Level 2 Drought Alert Condition is consistent with the City's broader code enforcement efforts. Complaints regarding water waste or other violations of Level 2 will be received by the Water Department's Customer Support Division. Each complaint will follow an escalating process that begins with a letter of notification and can continue through contacts by Code Enforcement staff. Should water waste or violation continue, an Administrative Citation of between \$100 and \$1,000 will be issued, depending on the severity of the violation. If there is still no compliance, additional fines will be levied or the issue will be forwarded to the City Treasurer and/or City Attorney offices.

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION WILL HELP ANNOUNCE NEW REQUIREMENTS**

Mayor Sanders has committed the Water Department to an aggressive public outreach and education campaign as part of moving the City to the Level 2 Drought Alert Condition. The

Mayor has directed the Department to begin an advertising and public communication campaign that will include water bill inserts, television announcements, information flyers for community groups, public presentations and many other communication activities to announce the mandatory water use restrictions.

The Mayor has also directed the Water Department to conduct a series of public education sessions throughout the City. The Department has scheduled meetings in each Council District and will have staff on-hand to describe the Level 2 and mandatory water use restrictions. Each of the meetings will begin at 6 p.m. on the following dates:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
<b>May 11 – Monday</b>	La Jolla/Riford Branch Library 7555 Draper Avenue
<b>May 12 – Tuesday</b>	War Memorial Building Balboa Park
<b>May 13 – Wednesday</b>	Valencia Park/Malcolm X Branch Library 5148 Market Street
<b>May 14 – Thursday</b>	Serra Mesa Branch Library 9005 Aero Drive
<b>May 18 – Monday</b>	Lewis Middle School 5170 Greenbrier
<b>May 20 – Wednesday</b>	Otay Mesa/Nestor Branch Library 3003 Coronado
<b>May 26 – Tuesday</b> <b>(Revised)</b>	Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library 4275 Cass Street
<b>May 27 - Wednesday</b>	Carmel Mountain Branch Library 12095 World Trade Drive

More information about the Level 2 Drought Alert Condition requirements can be found at the Water Department website at: [www.sandiego.gov/water](http://www.sandiego.gov/water).

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